

LANSGING, MICH.
STATE JOURNAL

E. 70,182
S. 69,552

APR 12 1965

Surprising Report On Methods of CIA

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Sen. Milton R. Young, R-N.D., is one of the few men in Washington with a lawful opportunity to have knowledge of some of the super-secret Central Intelligence Agency's innermost secrets.

He is one of only six senators who know precisely how much money is appropriated for the CIA, whose funds are concealed in the budgets of dozens of other federal agencies.

Last winter, the North Dakota senator, as a member of a Senate appropriations subcommittee, visited virtually all of the intelligence agency's overseas offices.

As a result of a written report to his constituents, many more persons, including some of this country's enemies, may have more knowledge of CIA methods and operations than they had previously.

Sen. Young's report to the voters in North Dakota included this statement: "Many of our most valuable CIA operatives in various countries throughout the world are actually high-ranking Communist party officials."

Elaborating on his report to the home folks, he said that American spies cannot work their way up in the apparatus of foreign Communist parties. However, "some party members

—not too sold on communism—for a price will work for us," he said.

"These operatives are experts in their line of work and they find little difficulty in adapting themselves to any kind of political environment."

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It isn't surprising that the CIA makes use of Communists to obtain information it deems important to maintaining America's security even though there is always the possibility that some of such operatives are really working in the interests of communism.

What is surprising to us is that Sen. Young has chosen to publicize in his report to his constituents any of the methods employed by the CIA.

Perhaps the information disclosed by the senator was already known to our Communist adversaries but that possibility doesn't justify the disclosure by any senator or other official of any information which could possibly be of use to the Communists.

The methods employed by the CIA doubtless are of far greater interest to this country's enemies, than the agency's appropriations which the government takes such great pains to conceal from U.S. taxpayers and most other persons.